

LETTERS FROM BOURBON COUNTY SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

Under date of Aug. 3, Roger Q. Thomson, Jr., grandson of Mrs. John T. Hinton, of Paris, sends a breezy letter from France. Mr. Thomson's letter, which is one of the most interesting we have yet read, is as follows:

"Dear Auntie:—I hope my letter written some ten days ago announcing my departure for the training camp arrived O. K. Had quite an enjoyable trip, stopping for a few hours in Paris, France, on the way here. Our stay was of only a few hours duration and I didn't have time to see as much of the town as I would have liked. What I did see though was well worth while. I am hoping to have a chance of looking in over in more leisurely fashion at some future time.

"The training camp is well located in a very beautiful, as well as beautiful, part of France. We are sufficiently far behind the lines to not have to worry about aeroplane raids and twelve-inch shells for a while now. It's quite a welcome change, too. As the English say, 'I got jolly well fed upon it.' I am glad to settle down for a while in this section for another reason, i. e. all the troops are Americans and we get honest-to-goodness Yankee grub. No more tea, cheese and jam like we have been having to put up with in the past.

"I ran into a little hard luck my second day here by spraining my left ankle. However, it is coming along nicely and I expect to be out on crutches within the next day or so. Of course this is rather disappointing at such a time as the present, when every minute lost is equal almost to an hour otherwise, but am studying my manual, and this may partly help to bridge over.

"I presume you folks back home have been keeping up with the progress of events over here for the past few weeks. I can't help but wonder how the Hun mind is going to readjust itself so as to account for the fighting qualities and results obtained by 'America's amateur army.' The Yanks have forced him to bring on his best and best have been beaten. Wouldn't be a bit surprised to see some very interesting political developments in Germany between now and next spring.

"One of the boys here in the hospital with me is just back from the sector where most of our fighting has been going on. He says they found scores of Germans chained to their guns and on one occasion found German Red Cross women lying dead beside machine guns which they had been operating. It is really pitiful the way the German Government deceives its subjects. On our way down here one of the box cars in our train was filled with German prisoners. At one point along the route we were held up a couple of hours, so several of us went up to have a look at the 'Fritzes.' One of our party fortunately could speak German. They wanted to know how many Americans were over, and my friend announced, 'Oh, a lot.' The German then wanted to know if we had as many as 100,000 troops over here. Also whether Paris was still in German hands. These are facts, from which you can judge how grossly untrue is the information circulated among the troops by their Government. Please make allowance for this scrawl. Am writing in bed with my knees for a desk and results are none too good.

"Don't worry about the ankle. It is really progressing splendidly and I am confident I will be using it a bit before another week is out. Please note the change in address. With love to all the family and best regards to any inquiring friends, I am

"Your affectionate nephew,
"ROGER D. THOMSON.
"My address is, Candidate Roger D. Thomson, Jr., A. C. S., A. P. O., 714, American E. F., France."

Mrs. Charles Sauer, of Paris, is in receipt of a letter from her brother, Mr. Alvin M. Thomas, formerly of Paris, who is in France as a member of the American Expeditionary Force. The letter follows:

"Dear Sister:—I guess you are under the impression that I have forgotten you altogether. It seems like I am never going to hear from you all. I have not received one letter from the States since I came over, although I am looking to hear from

some one soon. I am getting along just fine. I think the condition over here is very good for us boys, much better than I expected. My health is grand—so you know I am one thankful boy and I hope to continue. From what I can hear and see, Uncle Sam's boys sure have the Huns on the run.

"I am on the Western front, some where on the Marne River, and you know I am experiencing quite a bit. I would like to write you and tell you all about the war conditions, but it's against the rules. Just wait until I get back to the States, then I can tell you all about it, for I know you will be very interested in my story. And don't forget to write as often as you can, for that's the only pleasure a soldier has, and that's a letter from home now and then.

"Give my regards to all. In closing my letter, I hope to hear from home soon. I am sending lots of love to all.

"ALVIN M. THOMAS,
"Co. A., 6th U. S. Engrs., American Expeditionary Force, France."

Mr. James Porter, of Louisville, formerly of Paris, sends THE NEWS the following interesting letter from Noah Clark, a Paris boy, who is now in France in the service:

"Dear Jim:—I have been intending to write for some time, but have been changing around so fast that I hardly knew one day where I would be the next.

"Left Philadelphia, July 6, for Hoboken and sailed from there on the Manchuria. Had a fine trip over, as the sea was as smooth as glass, and I did not get sea sick, but I came so near it that I was afraid to laugh at anybody else for feeling the fish.

"This is an old town and has a very fine harbor, and the scenery is very fine. I have not been on liberty yet, so don't know much about it, but everything is wide open here and a uniform don't put any lid on. Will have to study up a little French before I go out by my lonesome.

"They call this Sunny France, but I don't see where it got its name, as it rains here every day.

"How is Mrs. Porter getting along? Give her my regards and tell her I sure would like to have one of her good breakfasts in the morning. I haven't had a pay day yet, and it sure is being broke.

"Where are you going now? Hope you have found something that suits you. Give my regards to all the bunch. Don't know anything else to write, so will close for this time, with regards to you and Mrs. Porter.
"Your friend,
"NOAH CLARK,
"U. S. Naval Air Station, France,
"Care Postmaster, New York."

First Lieutenant Reuben B. Hutchcraft, of Paris, now somewhere in France with the 166th Infantry, has written County Attorney David D. Cline a brief but interesting letter from the battle front overseas.

Lieut. Hutchcraft also sent in his letter a souvenir cigarette which was evidently taken from the mouth of a German soldier after he had been killed. The cigarette, which had been lighted, bore stains of saliva indicating that the Boche was preparing to enjoy his smoke when he was killed presumably by one of our American soldiers. Written on the cigarette is the date "June 15, 1918," no doubt the date when the German soldier was killed.

Lieut. Hutchcraft also sent Mr. Cline a copy of The Ohio Rainbow Reveille, the official organ of the 166th Infantry, which contains interesting news for the soldier boys. Among the witty paragraphs we select the following for publication:
"The German prisoner was asked if he realized the great causes for which the Allies were fighting. 'Certainly,' said he. 'The Italians are fighting to whip the Austrians; the French are fighting for their country; the British are fighting for the mastery of the seas, and the Americans are fighting for souvenirs.'"

Lieut. Hutchcraft's letter to Attorney Cline, written on Y. M. C. A. stationery, and dated 20 June, 1918, follows:

"Dear Dave:
"Am inclosing you a souvenir of the recent battle. The Boche to whom this cigarette belonged has quit smoking here on account of an American 30 calibre. Would send you a cart load of helmets, rifles, packs,

bayonets, etc., if the postal authorities would permit. Give my regards to all the boys.

"HUTCH."
O. K.
Reuben B. Hutchcraft, Jr.,
1st Lt. 166th Inf.

"Norfolk, Va., Sept. 7, 1918.
"THE NEWS:—How goes every thing in the old town? I finished my flights and other work in Akron last week and received orders last Tuesday to report to Hampton Roads, so here I am. I received a four-days' furlough before I left Akron, and had a mighty nice time with mother and Margaret up in Two Rivers, Wis. I guess John and Edwin are overseas by now, as they left about two weeks ago. I like this station fine, but cannot give Norfolk a reputation for a town to have a good time. There are too many sailors and soldiers here. There are almost as many British and Japanese as anybody else. It goes without saying there are lots of good looking girls here, which is characteristic of every Southern town, but it would take Admiral Simms or General Pershing to attract their attention. I ran into a Paris boy coming down on the boat, but have forgotten his name. I hear our good friend Jack Turney is at Camp Mills, and of course we all know what that means. He will have to hurry if he expects to beat me across, as I hear we will soon see sea service, which is glad news. It looked like for awhile we were doomed to the good ship 'never sail,' but am more than glad we are about to graduate from that class.

"Guess I will go on a five or six days' cruise somewhere on the old pond before many days have past. Am glad I was sent here instead of New York, as I am sure I will like it much better. There are not as many bright lights and about the only wet spots around here is the old Chesapeake and Atlantic, but the pretty Southern girls and good food offset the above many times. I started this with the intention of only sending my address, but here I have written quite a lengthy epistle. Please rush the old NEWS to me.

"CADET J. MONROE SWEENEY,
"U. S. N. Air Station, Naval Operating Base, Hampton Roads, Balloon Div., Norfolk, Va."

Under date of August 12, Sergeant-Major Earl Curtis writes from overseas to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Curtis, as follows:

"Dear Folks:—I suppose you have by this time given up hearing from me, but, we have, since our arrival in France, been handicapped by the lack of a Regimental Censor Stamp, without which no mail could be forwarded. However, we finally landed one today, and my letters in the future should reach you more regularly, although pretty lengthy periods of time may ensue between the receipt of some of them, due to the congested conditions and lack of facilities for handling mail over here.

"There is very little news to give you, other than to state that our trip across the big pond and then through the interior of France, although very interesting, was uneventful.

"I am, at this time, not allowed to divulge our present location, other than to say that we are several miles back of the front line trenches in as beautiful a section of country as can be found in old Bourbon county, which is certainly saying a whole lot. The country is not mountainous but very hilly. Every foot of ground is productive and is utilized by these people. The variety of crops is not very great, consisting almost altogether of cereals and truck products, but the yield all seems to be above the normal that is raised at home.

"Although all of these people realize the situation their country is in, and almost without exception each family has given up some one in the past four years, they maintain an optimistic air and do not seem to have any doubt as to what the final outcome will be.

"We have been treated royally at every point at which we have come in contact with the people and have been greeted innumerable times with the Viva la Amerique, Vivia la France, which are about the only two phrases known in common by the American and Frenchmen. It is very amusing to see us trying to talk French and is equally amusing to see the French trying to talk English.

"Prices here are all out of proportion. Eggs are worth \$1.20 per dozen, while a good room and bed can be hired per month for the price of a dozen eggs.

"My new address is Regt.-Sgt.-Maj. William E. Curtis, Hd. Co. 143d Inf. Amer. E. Forces, A. P. O. 723 Inf. New York, so that I can get the paper regularly.

"Will quit now so that this letter will get off to-day. Give my regards to everybody.

"EARL."

Mrs. Mollie James, of this city, is in receipt of a letter from her son, Sergt. Lawrence H. James, written from France under date of August 9, from which THE NEWS has been permitted to make the following extracts:

"August 9.
"Dear Mother:—First, of all, I want to tell you that I am here, safe and sound, faring much better than I had ever hoped for. Five of the sergeants, including myself, are billeted with a French family. Very nice, indeed, and while we 'can't shoot the lingo' very strong, we manage to get along very nicely by making signs and using our French-English dictionaries. We have two rooms, and our beds are very inviting, great thick feather affairs with pure lamb's wool blankets for cover. Our cats are good, also, and the officers are taking awfully good care of us.

"Spent four days and four nights on the train from the port at which we were landed, to standing on our heads and most every way imaginable. The roads of France are much better than those of our U. S. A., and are very picturesque, with trees growing on both sides, each tree being the same distance from the other, and all directly opposite each other. The country is very rolling and the towns are built in the valleys, mostly quaint, old-fashioned French houses,

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Comings and Goings of Our People Here, There and Elsewhere.

—Mr. J. W. Davis has gone to Martinsville, Ind., for a stay of several days.

—Miss Sarah Power left Wednesday for Shelbyville, to attend Science Hill Academy.

—Rev. W. E. Ellis was a guest of friends and relatives in Louisville several days this week.

—Mr. James H. Haggard, who has been very ill at his home on Cypress street for some time, is improving.

—Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Sudduth and daughter, Miss Virginia Sudduth, have moved from Paris to Irvine, to reside.

—Mrs. L. M. Tribble has returned from an extended visit to Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Glenn, in Stephen, Missouri.

—Mrs. Allmand Arthur, of Winchester street, has as guest her sister, Miss Fannie McClure, of Conway, Ky.

—Mrs. William Crawford has returned to her home near Midway, after a visit to Mrs. Theodore Butler, near Paris.

—Mr. Reynolds Bell, of the county, left Tuesday for Berea, where he will matriculate as a student at Berea College.

—Miss Sallie Whaley has concluded a very pleasant visit to Mr. and Mrs. William Hughes and family in Nicholasville.

—Mrs. James Grinnell and Miss Ina Mattox are visiting Mrs. Lucy Bryant, in Covington, and Miss Nora Hartley, in Cincinnati.

—Dr. H. E. Foster left Wednesday for Owenton, Ky., to spend a ten-days' vacation with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Foster, Sr.

—Mr. Jesse Herrin, who recently underwent a surgical operation at the Massie Memorial Hospital, in this city, is considerably improved.

—Miss Clara Baldwin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Baldwin, who has been seriously ill at the Massie Memorial Hospital, is improving.

—Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Carter will move to Lexington soon to reside. Their daughter, Miss Elizabeth Stuart Carter, is attending school there.

—Miss Nancy Barbee Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Sims Wilson, left Wednesday, for Shelbyville, to attend Science Hill Academy.

—Miss Anna B. Price, of Danville, has returned home, accompanied by Miss Lillian DeJarnett, after a visit to Mrs. J. W. DeJarnett, on Sixteenth street.

—Mrs. Charles H. Mahagan, of Chicago, formerly Miss Virgie Kelley, of Millersburg, is a guest of her sister, Mrs. E. F. Clay, and Col. Clay, near Paris.

—Mr. W. S. Caywood, formerly of Paris, who is now connected with the Bureau of Supplies, at Washington, D. C., is a guest of his brother, Mr. J. B. Caywood, County Superintendent of Schools.

—Miss Nell Whaley, of Paris, who was elected as instructor of Latin in Hamilton College, in Lexington, will assume her duties there next Monday. Miss Whaley will also have charge of the Latin department at Transylvania University.

—Mrs. W. L. Davis, who has been a guest of her sister, Mrs. J. T. Hinton, in this city, has gone to Louisville for a short visit to relatives. She will return here for a visit to Mrs. Hinton before returning to her home in Columbia, South Carolina.

—Mr. Keith Phillips, of Atlanta, Georgia, came to Paris, Wednesday, to welcome the new arrival in his household, Master Marion Keith Phillips. Mr. Phillips and family are guests at the home of Mrs. Phillips' parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Douglas, at Ninth and Main.

—Miss Josephine Hayden, formerly of Paris, who has been doing club work at Paducah, will leave tomorrow for Jacksonville, Ill., where she will resume her duties as teacher in the school. Miss Hayden is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hayden, of this city, and has been very successful in her chosen work.

(Other Personals on Page 5.)

all of them built of stone many years ago. There are no porches. . . . Our trip was some trip. Part of the men rode in the quaint old boxcars labeled Hommes 40, Chateaux 8. Others rode in passenger coaches, which the French distinctively divide into first, second and third class. Each car is divided into four compartments, each compartment seating eight persons. . . . The trip would have been tiresome, but during the day the scenery was so fine that we couldn't feel worried and naturally all soldiers have learned to sleep at night, however uncomfortable the sleeping place may be. We slept standing on our heads some of the time.

"Getting shaved in a barber shop is one of the few luxuries I've been afforded since I have been over here. It was amusing to me. Anderson Cahal might get a few pointers and I know 'Zeke' Curtis could. The Frenchie who scraped me was an old bird, about fifty-five, I should judge. He placed me in an old barber chair, nothing at all like those in the U. S., just a plain, straight-backed affair, with a movable panel, with head rest attached. He shaved me with a blade that looked like the one in the guillotine which beheaded Marie Antoinette. . . . But I won't prolong the agony by telling you of all the misery I went through with while that fellow was working on my 'beard.' Suffice it to say it was awful.

"I think I was in the same town where Buddie was for a few days, but I couldn't find him. Saw two Paris boys and a Jew lieutenant from Lexington over here. Billie Gouston, a brother of Mrs. Matt Lair. You might phone her and tell her that he is O. K. and looking fine. Well, I must close now, so with love to all, I am,
"Lovingly,
"LAWRENCE."

"P. S.—My address is Sergt. Lawrence H. James, M. G. Co. 143d Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces. Be sure and address all my mail just this way, as then I will get it."

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